

COST COMPARISON ANALYSIS

Boise County contains numerous developments, subdivisions and communities separated by miles of mountainous terrain. County-wide there are approximately 5,300 homes and four incorporated communities. Most areas of Boise County are at risk to wildfires. Of the 5,300 homes within the County it is estimated that three-fourths (3,975) of them have some risk to wildfires. Hazardous fuel reduction, increased wildfire emergency services, and improved county emergency services communications can mitigate risk to life and property in Boise County.

A sample of 835 Boise County residential homes taken from seven different locations within the County yielded an averaged assessed value of \$103,306 per residence. Fifteen percent of this average was added for personal property in the homes. This provided the total average value of \$118,802 per residence.

Using an average home value of \$118,802 the total estimated value of Boise County homes is \$472,237,950. Add to this the value of county assets including county structures, communication sites, and court houses the estimated total value of assets at risk to wildfire is over \$500,000,000. This total does not include the value of timber resources, or expense in protection of watersheds, and vegetation rehabilitation or soil erosion control efforts after a wildfire.

Mitigation Recommendation Costs, Boise County

Estimated costs for wildfire mitigation recommendations within Boise County are: \$700,000 for County-wide road side, private and developed lands hazardous fuel reduction and vegetation disposal-mitigation recommendation number 7, hazard priority 5.

Estimated costs for emergency services communication requirements include: \$25,000 for County and Fire Department Communications, mitigation recommendation number 1 and 2, hazard priority 1.

Boise County Fire Departments have identified priorities for construction of or additions to 5 Fire Stations, additional training, PPE, equipment and engines, brush trucks and water tenders, cost estimates are provided in mitigation recommendation number 5, hazard priority 4. Total cost estimate for county wide fire departments is approximately \$2.1 million.

BENEFITS OF MITIGATION

Stakeholders evaluating the economic benefits of mitigation should consider numerous “direct” scenarios, including, but not limited to avoiding:

- Building/property damages
- Content damages
- Inventory damages
- Rental income losses
- Relocation and disruption expenses
- Proprietor’s income losses

Some of “indirect” effects to consider, (positive or negative) include changes to the following:

- Commodity and resource prices
- Availability of resource supplies
- Building and land values
- Capital availability and interest rates
- Availability of labor
- Economic structure
- Infrastructure
- Local, state, and national regulations and policies
- Insurance availability and rates

Total economic impacts are the sum of direct and indirect economic impacts. Decision makers should understand the total economic impacts of natural disasters in order to calculate the benefits of a mitigation activity.

Additionally, it must be realized that benefit/cost analysis, when used alone, may divert attention from other important issues. It is important to consider the qualitative factors of a project associated with mitigation that cannot be evaluated economically. There are alternatives. Many communities and developments are looking towards developing multi-objective projects, including: integration of natural hazard mitigation with projects related to watersheds, wildfire protection, environmental planning, community economic development and small business development.